

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11491 281356Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 EUR-06 IO-03 RSC-01 DRC-01

NEAE-00 (ADP) W

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P R 281230Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4462

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11491

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL SY US IT

SUBJ: RETURN OF ROMAN MOSAIC TO SYRIA

REF: STATE 188549; ROME 10251

1. WE HAVE TALKED HERE ON STRICTLY PERSONAL BASIS WITH SHIPPING AGENTS FOR VARIOUS MARITIME COMPANIES SERVING MEDITERRANEAN. THEY ARE IMPRESSED WITH POTENTIAL PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS VALUE OF SHIPPING MOSAIC FROM UNITED STATES TO SYRIA (PERHAPS VIA BEIRUT IF SHIPS DO NOT CALL AT LATAKIA). THEY BELIEVE THAT THIS VALUE WOULD JUSTIFY COST OF SHIPPING MOSAIC FREE OF CHARGE, OBSERVING THAT THERE IS BUSINESS TO BE DONE WITH SYRIANS BUT LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SHIPPING LINES TO DISPLAY DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL AND FRIENDLY TO SARG.
2. INASMUCH AS AGENTS HERE HAVE NO RPT NO POWER OF DECISION AND WE HAVE NO DETAILS ON WEIGHT, SIZE, ETC. OF MOSAIC, SUGGEST THAT DEPT CONTACT NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS OF ONE OR MORE OF SHIPPING LINES WHICH SERVE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND REQ THAT THEY SHIP MOSAIC FREE OF CHARGE, IF AGREEABLE TO MUSEUM AND SARG. DEPT COULD OFFER TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATIO WITH SARG (VIA THIS EMBASSY AND USINT) AND HELP WITH PUBLICITY ON SHIPMENT.
3. SHIPPING LINES ARE AS FOLS: AMERICAN EXPORT; CONCORDIA;
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CONSTELLATION; HELLENCI; AND TORM. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY

SUGGESTED TO US IS TO CONTACT DIRECTLY THE NORTH ATLANTIC
AND MEDITERRANEAN EAST BOUND SHIPPING CONFERENCE WHICH
HAS ITS OFFICES IN NEW YORK CITY.
HOUGHTON

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Message Attributes

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